



Fatal Crashes Involving Driver Impairment by Drugs or Alcohol in Washington, 2008-2012

How significant is the problem?

From 2008 through 2012, a total of 1,047 fatal crashes involving an impaired driver occurred on Washington roadways. These crashes resulted in 1,160 impaired-driver-involved (IDI) deaths, an average of 232 per year, or 49.0% of all traffic fatalities in this five-year period. Among these deaths, 34% involved a drug-impaired driver, 40% involved an alcohol-impaired driver, and 26% involved a driver impaired by both drugs and alcohol.

Who dies in impaired driving crashes?

More than a quarter of all IDI deaths (299, 25.8%) were males between the ages of 21 and 30. Deaths in this age group amounted to nearly one-third (31.5%) of all IDI deaths in this period. Overall, males accounted for 77.2% of IDI deaths. Motor-vehicle occupants totaled 93.9% of all IDI deaths. Non-motorists (pedestrians and bicyclists) accounted for another 4.7%.

Person Type	Deaths	Percent
Driver	875	75.4%
Passenger	211	18.2%
Pedestrian	48	4.1%
Pedalcyclist	7	0.6%
Other Non-motorist	19	1.6%
Total	1160	100.0%

What are the factors involved?

Road and Area Type

Sixty-one percent (706) of IDI deaths resulted from crashes in rural areas. County roads accounted for nearly four of every ten (439, 37.8%) impaired-driving deaths. The second-highest IDI total resulted from crashes on US/State Routes (372, 32.1%), and Interstate crashes yielded the lowest number of IDI deaths (107, 9.2%).

Road Class	Rural	Urban	Total
Interstates	3.8%	5.4%	9.2%
US/State Routes	24.8%	7.2%	32.1%
County Roads	29.3%	7.9%	37.8%
City Streets	0.6%	17.8%	18.4%
Other/Unknown	2.3%	0.0%	2.5%
Totals	60.9%	38.4%	100.0%

Time

Over 40% (476) of IDI traffic deaths occurred between 9 PM and 2:59 AM.

Time of Crash	Deaths	Percentage
6:00 AM to 8:59 AM	70	6.0%
9:00 AM to 11:59 AM	53	4.6%
12:00 PM to 2:59 AM	87	7.5%
3:00 PM to 5:59 PM	175	15.1%
6:00 PM to 8:59 PM	189	16.3%
9:00 PM to 11:59 PM	213	18.4%
12:00 AM to 2:59 AM	263	22.7%
Unknown	5	0.4%

Day

Nearly 6 in 10 (683, 58.9%) IDI fatalities occurred on weekends between Friday and Sunday – 52% between 6 PM Friday and 5:59 AM Monday.

Road Class	Deaths	Percentage
Monday	115	9.9%
Tuesday	118	10.2%
Wednesday	128	11.0%
Thursday	116	10.0%
Friday	196	16.9%
Saturday	256	22.1%
Sunday	231	19.9%

Month

Half (577, 49.7%) of IDI fatalities resulted from crashes between May and August – August had the greatest monthly toll (136, 11.7%). The fewest IDI deaths (68, 5.9%) ensued from February crashes.



Fatal Crashes Involving Driver Impairment by Drugs or Alcohol in Washington, 2008-2012

Month	Deaths	Percentage
January	95	8.2%
February	68	5.9%
March	89	7.7%
April	83	7.2%
May	113	9.7%
June	106	9.1%
July	114	9.8%
August	136	11.7%
September	108	9.3%
October	86	7.4%
November	86	7.4%
December	76	6.6%

Crash Type

Six in ten (709, 61.2%) IDI fatalities were a result of single-vehicle crashes. Two-thirds of these single-vehicle IDI fatalities (65.0%) occurred on rural roadways.

Drivers

Between 2008 and 2012, 34.3% of all drivers involved in fatal crashes (1,084 of 3,158) were impaired by drugs or alcohol. Nearly a fourth of these drivers (256, 23.6%) were impaired by *both* drugs and alcohol.

Age Group	Male	Female	Total
15-17	1.8%	0.5%	2.2%
18-25	22.0%	4.5%	26.6%
26-35	20.6%	3.9%	24.4%
36-45	14.3%	2.9%	17.2%
46-55	11.2%	3.9%	15.0%
56-65	7.4%	1.6%	8.9%
66-75	2.4%	0.5%	2.9%
76+	1.8%	0.9%	2.7%
Total	81.5%	18.5%	100%

Impaired drivers in fatal crashes were about three times more likely to be speeding as were non-impaired drivers in fatal crashes (48.6% to 16.1%) and slightly more likely to be driving distracted (23.0% to 16.1%). Impaired drivers were more than four times as likely not to possess a valid driver's license when they crashed (25.5% to 6.2%).

Vehicles

Nearly two-thirds (62.8%) of impaired drivers in fatal crashes were driving a passenger car, SUV, or van. Light trucks were the next-most common vehicle type (17.9%) driven by impaired drivers, followed by motorcycles (16.2%).

Vehicle Type	Drivers	Percentage
Car, SUV, Van	681	62.8%
Pickup or Light Truck	194	17.9%
Motorcycle	176	16.2%
Heavy Truck	11	1.0%
Other Type	20	1.8%
Unknown	2	0.2%
Total	1,084	100%

More than 7 in every 10 impaired drivers (766, 70.7%) were the sole occupants in their vehicles. More than a quarter of impaired drivers (276, 25.5%) drove with one or two other passengers in the vehicle.

Seat Belts

Between 2008 and 2012, only 56.3% of passenger-vehicle drivers in IDI fatal crashes were restrained at the time they crashed. By contrast, 89.9% of non-impaired drivers were restrained. Passengers involved in fatal crashes with an IDI driver showed a similar pattern, only 35.6% were restrained compared to 51.7% of passengers in non-IDI fatal crashes.

Where are IDI crashes occurring?

From 2008-2012, five counties totaled more IDI deaths (583, 50.3%) than the other 34 counties combined (577, 49.7%); King, Pierce, Snohomish, Yakima, and Spokane. As of 2014, all five of these counties have deployed *Target Zero Teams*, permanent full-time, DUI-dedicated high visibility enforcement to reduce impaired drivers on Washington roadways.



Fatal Crashes Involving Driver Impairment by Drugs or Alcohol in Washington, 2008-2012

County	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2008-2012	% of Fatalities
Adams	1	1	1	2	2	7	0.6%
Asotin	0	1	0	0	0	1	0.1%
Benton	2	5	7	8	3	25	2.2%
Chelan	3	5	1	1	5	15	1.3%
Clallam	6	3	5	6	2	22	1.9%
Clark	8	9	12	7	9	45	3.9%
Columbia	1	0	0	0	0	1	0.1%
Cowlitz	6	4	4	4	2	20	1.7%
Douglas	1	1	2	0	1	5	0.4%
Ferry	2	2	0	0	0	4	0.3%
Franklin	11	3	3	5	0	22	1.9%
Garfield	0	2	0	0	0	2	0.2%
Grant	10	13	9	3	3	38	3.3%
Grays Harbor	6	3	4	3	5	21	1.8%
Island	3	1	5	3	3	15	1.3%
Jefferson	1	1	0	1	0	3	0.3%
King	46	42	40	28	44	200	17.2%
Kitsap	9	7	8	10	13	47	4.1%
Kittitas	6	2	6	8	3	25	2.2%
Klickitat	2	0	3	3	0	8	0.7%
Lewis	1	8	3	4	1	17	1.5%
Lincoln	3	2	2	1	4	12	1.0%
Mason	6	2	4	6	3	21	1.8%
Okanogan	2	3	9	4	6	24	2.1%
Pacific	2	0	1	2	1	6	0.5%
Pend Oreille	0	3	0	1	1	5	0.4%
Pierce	35	32	23	15	23	128	11.0%
San Juan	1	1	1	1	0	4	0.3%
Skagit	10	9	4	2	2	27	2.3%
Skamania	1	0	1	1	2	5	0.4%
Snohomish	18	26	19	18	19	100	8.6%
Spokane	11	20	16	17	13	77	6.6%
Stevens	3	2	4	3	2	14	1.2%
Thurston	14	15	11	12	8	60	5.2%
Wahkiakum	1	1	0	0	0	2	0.2%
Walla Walla	3	3	2	1	1	10	0.9%
Whatcom	9	7	7	4	7	34	2.9%
Whitman	1	2	5	1	1	10	0.9%
Yakima	9	24	18	14	13	78	6.7%
WA STATE	254	265	240	199	202	1160	100.0%